



For Immediate Release
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Referendum 4A Defeated

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The Colorado River Water Conservation District’s “de-Brucing” measure Referendum 4A was defeated at the polls on Tuesday. The ballot initiative asked voters to freeze the District’s mill levy at its present 0.25 mills and prevent any further erosion of the rate through TABOR restrictions. The Colorado River District’s mill levy has been cut in half since TABOR was enacted in 1992.

Despite carrying seven of the District’s 15 West Slope counties, Referendum 4A failed by a vote of 44% (40,142 votes) in support to 56% (51,840 votes) in opposition. Headwaters counties closest to the Continental Divide that most strongly felt the impacts of 2002’s drought supported the measure, while counties furthest away from the Divide were opposed to the referendum.

The “de-Brucing” measure would have allowed the Colorado River District to retain and use any revenues in excess of TABOR restrictions. Any additional revenues derived through passage of Referendum 4A were to be used to fund capital water projects to benefit residents of the West Slope.

The Colorado River District has identified a number of target areas requiring additional capital investment to address drought, water supply management, inefficient water uses practices and water quality problems.

“The Colorado River Water Conservation District still suffers from poor name recognition in the counties we represent,” said Paul Ohri, president of the Colorado River District’s Board of Directors and representative from Grand County. “We are doing great things for the people living in the District, but we’re just not getting the credit for all the things we’ve accomplished.”

A recent survey of Colorado River District constituents has shown that residents within the District’s boundaries have extremely high approval ratings of District actions, though few recognize the District by name.

Looking towards the future, the Colorado River District will continue to work on expansion of Elkhead Reservoir, on adding clean hydroelectric energy generation capability at Wolford Mountain Reservoir, pursuing cooperative arrangements with Front Range water providers to come up with mutually beneficial water projects, increasing

water storage on the West Slope and resolving water supply and water quality issues throughout the Colorado River Basin.

The Colorado River Water Conservation District was chartered by the Colorado General Assembly in 1937 for the conservation, use, protection and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin. The District includes, Routt, Moffatt, Grand, Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Mesa, Gunnison, Ouray, Delta and portions of Montrose, Saguache and Hinsdale counties.

County	#Yes	#No	%Yes	%No	Carried
Eagle	2,900	2,603	53%	47%	✓
Summit	2,861	2,089	58%	42%	✓
Routt	2,331	2,167	52%	48%	✓
Grand	2,084	1,731	55%	45%	✓
Gunnison	1,918	1,767	52%	48%	✓
Pitkin	1,659	1,330	56%	44%	✓
Hinsdale	183	137	57%	43%	✓
Saguache	20	45	31%	69%	
Rio Blanco	429	717	37%	63%	
Ouray	550	721	43%	57%	
Moffat	851	1,834	32%	68%	
Delta	3,107	5,494	36%	64%	
Montrose	3,284	4,909	40%	60%	
Garfield	4,441	5,389	45%	55%	
Mesa	13,524	20,907	39%	61%	
TOTALS	40,142	51,840	44%	56%	